



Welcome to Spark2, the Tribe weekly parsha activity sheet for Children's Service Leaders across the United Synagogue communities.

Thank you for offering to run a service. The US is very proud of the numerous Children's Services that are run every week across the UK and this would not happen without you.

Spark2 gives you an overview of the weekly parsha, a song, activity or Dvar Torah linked to the parsha or important event that week. Every children's service will be different, in terms of how many participants there are, their age range, its length and the varying abilities of the children. Please read through the document and find the activities that will best suit the needs of your group. It is advisable to read it before Shabbat in case there is some preparation that may be needed in advance.

I hope you and the children at your service will benefit from Spark2. Please be in touch if you have any queries, feedback or if I can be of any help.

With best wishes,
Sharon Radley
sharonradley@tribeuk.com

Eikev

Parsha Summary:

- Moshe's speech continues. The parsha opens with our reward! If we keep God's Torah, He will bless us in many ways.
- The reminder of what God did to the Egyptians for us and how we should not be afraid of other nations.
- Moshe describes the beauty of Eretz Yisrael.
- We go back again to the times in the wilderness when we did not behave as we should towards God – especially the tragedy of the Golden Calf.
- Just like last week's parsha had the first paragraph of the Shema, this week continues with the second paragraph. Here we are told that if we keep the laws, God will send rains and grass for us, which will lead to a rich and prosperous land. The mitzvot of prayer, *tefillin* and *mezuza* are also included in this second paragraph of the Shema.

Children's Service: Tot's – Year 2

Activity 1:

Last week's parsha contained the first paragraph of the Shema. This week we continue with the second paragraph. The Shema is one of the most important tefillot that we say. We say it in our morning prayers and last thing at night before we go to sleep.

Q. Why is this prayer so important?

A. The Shema is our daily and constant reminder that there is only one God, that He loves us and that we love Him. The Shema reminds us that wherever we go and whatever we do, we should always keep the mitzvot and if we do, God will watch out for us and reward us.

Go through the Shema with the children. Explain how we say the first verse out loud, then cover our eyes with our right hand, then whisper the second verse and so on. The children should repeat the words and actions after you.

Activity 2:

Another two mitzvot are also found in the Shema, in this week's parsha. (Tefillin and Mezuzah)

Act out putting on tefillin and putting up a mezuzah and see if any of the children can guess what these two mitzvot are. Once they have guessed, explain that having tangible, physical reminders of God and his mitzvot, help us to remember them all the time.

Stand your group in a circle and when you call out different words, they have to do the following actions:

Shema – cover their eyes

Tefillin – mime wrapping tefillin around their arm

Mezuzah – Mime hammering a mezuzah into place on a door post.

Once you have played this a couple of times you can swap it around – the leader does the mimes and the children have to call out the name of the mitzva.

Activity 3:

“A land flowing with milk and honey” Eretz Yisrael, we are told this week, is a beautiful country. Ask if any of your group has been there. If so can they tell their friends what things they did there or what things they saw?

Hold up a map of Israel. Point out the various main areas and explain how the country is so diverse in its natural beauty – we can go skiing up North on the Hermon Mountain in the winter and coral reef diving in Eilat in the South. There are rivers, beaches and craters, all found in one tiny piece of land!

Children’s Service: Years 3-6

Activity 1:

Last week’s parsha contained the first paragraph of the Shema. This week we continue with the second paragraph. The Shema is one of the most important prayers that we say. We say it in our morning prayers and last thing at night when we go to sleep.

Q. Why is this prayer so important?

A. The Shema is our daily and constant reminder that there is only one God, that He loves us and that we love Him. The Shema reminds us that wherever we go and whatever we do, we should always keep the mitzvot, and if we do, God will watch out for us and reward us.

The group should get themselves into pairs. Each pair should have a siddur. With their partner, they should find the Shema

and read through it with the English. They should discuss together what they think the Shema is telling us and how.

Gather the children back to the group and sit in a circle.

Discuss:

- *“And these matters that I command you today shall be upon your heart.”* What does this mean? How can something be on our heart?
- What other two mitzvot do we find in the Shema? (Tefillin and Mezuzah.)
- What similarities do these two mitzvot have? (They both contain the Shema, written in parchment, inside them.)
- How does having a physical reminder of the commandments, help us? (Seeing and touching something, every day, when we go in and out, is a constant presence that reminds us that God is with us.)
- Why do you think the Shema was chosen to be the prayer to be inside the tefillin and mezuzah?
- How do you show friends and family that you love them? What can we do to show God that we love Him?

Activity 2:

“A land flowing with milk and honey” Eretz Yisrael / Israel, we are told this week, is a beautiful country. Ask if any of your group has been there. If so can they tell their friends what things they did there or what things they saw?

Hold up a map of Israel. Point out the various main areas and explain how the country is so diverse in its natural beauty – we can go skiing up North on the Hermon Mountain in the winter and coral reef diving in Eilat in the South. There are rivers, beaches and craters, all found in one tiny piece of land!

In small groups the group should prepare a short advert encouraging people to come to Israel. They should focus on the natural beauty of the land. Places they may want to include are:

- Dead Sea
- Coral Reef in Eilat
- Ramon Crater
- Desert
- Mountains
- Waterfalls and rivers
- Beaches

Once they have prepared their adverts they should show them to the rest of the group and the group leaders should judge them.